



By Ron C. Cross,
Board of Commission Chairman

2010.....ahh, WHERE TO BEGIN??

The absolute very best place to begin is to inform the citizens of Columbia County that the County Commission pledged in our goals for 2010 to always maintain a balanced budget and to have no millage rate increase. We will continue to handle any revenue decreases with a reduction in expenses. This has been the situation for eight years now, even though the state and property assessments make a difference in our total tax bills. The assessment freeze initiated by the state will remain in effect for two more years and the Governor has already taken his homestead tax relief grant credit away, so our property taxes should remain static in 2010. This is not the case for many Georgia counties. Gwinnett County just approved a twenty-one percent increase in their millage rate and the folks are not happy.

Maybe even more important than the above is the prospect that Columbia County has for a great new year. We have weathered the financial storm much better than most counties. The many SPLOST projects approved by you in 2008 assures that more jobs will be available and our unemployment will remain much lower than our neighbors. Our residential construction is stronger than last year and there is a renewed interest in commercial development according to contacts made with our planning department. We know that the county offers excellent business opportunities and we will continue to attempt to keep your spendable dollars in Columbia County by pursuing the best retailers. Be sure to review the complete list of past, present and future SPLOST projects in this mailer. Thanks to your votes of approval many good things are happening and have happened in Columbia County ahead of their time. You have allowed the commission and staff to provide many opportunities for employment and to accelerate facilities and improvements that other counties can only imagine.

Enough of the promises and resolutions; let's get to work on turning these promises and plans into reality. Please accept the sincere gratitude of the commission and the staff for allowing us to serve the greatest county and greatest people in the world. It is truly an honor and privilege to be a part of a progressive, highly principled county that continues to look far into the future but is not afraid to cherish the values and traditions of the past. A county with confidence that the next experience will be better than the last and that difficulties only present opportunities for more innovative ideas. A county that is thankful for all of those that have served the cause of freedom and remains ready to continue that fight. A county that has been truly blessed with success but does not hesitate to aid the less fortunate. May God continue to smile upon us and....

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!



Bring One For The Chipper

Christmas Tree Recycling

Your Christmas gift to the environment!

**Saturday January 9,
2010
9am-2pm**

**Evans Home Depot
520 North Belair Road
Evans, GA 30809**

Early drop-off begins Monday December 28th
at the Evans Home Depot ONLY.

Please remove all decorations and tree stands prior to drop off.

Christmas Trees will be recycled into mulch that will
be available free of charge, while supplies last.

Free seed packets will be distributed while supplies last.

For more information, call (706) 312-7195.
www.columbiacountyga.gov



2006-2010 SPLOST PROJECTS Completed Projects

2006	2007	2008	2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appling Courthouse improvements • Emergency Operations Ctr • Reed Creek Park Center • Performing Arts Ctr upgrade • Resurfacing of Cox Road and Hereford Farm Road • Washington Road widening from Ronald Reagan Drive to Fieldstone Way • William Few Pkwy turn lane extension at Washington Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evans Gov't Center parking • Board of Elections • Land for new fire stations • Fire apparatus replacement • Blanchard Woods Park • Disc Golf Club House • Upgrade existing parks • Wrightsboro Rd and Eubanks Dr water lines • Computer software/hardware for public safety • North Belair Connector • Hardy McManus/ Washington Rds intersection • Paved Dodge Ln & Postell Dr • Baston Rd median work, paved Fire station parking lot and Martinez Blvd. • Resurface Blackstone Camp Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved Grant, Summit Ridge, Hamilton, Powell Church, Morris Calloway, and Burks Mountain Roads • Widened Washington Rd. at Goodwill • Resurfaced 13 roads • Constructed General Wood Pkwy to include intersection improvements at Washington Rd. • Building A east wing renovations • Interior renovations to the Savannah Rapids Pavilion • Evans Gov't Center masterplan • Fire stations & renovations • Appling sewer line • Ridge Road water line • Sanitary sewer for Animal Care • Wildwood Park master plan • Greenspace master plan • Evans Gov't Center master plan • Sheriff's communication system • Harlem Park tennis court repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening of Mullikin at Fury's Ferry and Evans-to-Locks at Blue Ridge • Park land in Gateway • Ronald Reagan Rd crosswalk repair • Island removal at Davis and Washington Roads • Sidewalks on S. Old Belair Rd • PAC lobby upgrade • Reed Creek boardwalk extension • Eubank Blanchard pavilion • Library Memorial Gardens playground extension • Blanchard Woods Park pavilion • Savannah Rapids AV upgrade • Wildwood Park Pavilions

Status of SPLOST Current Projects

Under Construction	Under Bid	Under Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paving of Bill Dorn, Cemetery, Rolland, Harp, White, Jamison, Knob Hill Farm and Rance Perry Roads • Euchee Creek Sewer • Augusta Tech Access Road • Auditorium Audio/Visual Upfit • Library Memorial Gardens additional pavilions and parking • Canal Headgates multi-use expansion • Euchee Creek sewer • Reed Creek pedestrian bridge • Evans Gov't Center more parking at Bldg D• 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paving of Linder McCurdy and Dent Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to acquire Baker Place and Blackstone Camp land – project uncertain • Widening of Washington Road • Fury's Ferry/Hardy McManus intersection improvements • Columbia Road sidewalk • Evans Town Center Park

GO BOND PROJECTS UPDATE Completed Projects

2007	2008	2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GR Tucker water line • Acquire waterlines/boost pump station • Appling masterplan for County facilities • Columbia Rd and temp. Leah Fire Stations • Station renovations at Winfield & Burks Mtn • HazMat response items • Ladder truck, battalion chief vehicle, and 4 Class A fire engines • Blanchard Woods Park land acquisition • Wildwood Park Disc Golf Driveway Paving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater masterplan • Mullins Pond detention facility • Dozier Road water line • Purchased Evans Town Center Park • Sheriff's weapons training facility • La Vista Drive drainage pipe • Court software, data conversion & training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire training facility • School sidewalk – Evans High • Halifax Subdivision stream restoration

Status of Current GO Bond Projects

Under Construction	Under Bid	Under Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW maintenance facility on Chamblin Road • William Few Parkway drainage • Euchee Creek drainage basin sewer lines • Widen Industrial Park to 5 lanes at Lowe's • Pave Crawford Place & Hinton Wilson Rds • School transportation construction per BOE • William Few Parkway Extension, South • Bowen's Pond restoration • Wildwood Park Gatehouse/entryways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betty's Branch stream restoration – design complete; acquiring easement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petersburg Station and Wynngate stream restorations • Old Louisville water line, water storage tank, and sanitary sewer line installation • Sidewalk at Evans Elementary School • Creek crossing on Reynolds Farm Rd • Owens, Cox & Gibbs widen loop and Hereford Farm Road widening • William Few Extension, North • Ridge Crossing Phase IIA – awaiting additional funding • Blanchard Woods Park Soccer Practice Fields

2011-2016 SPLOST PROJECTS FUNDED EARLY BY A BOND

Under Construction	Under Bid	Under Design	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water lines on Freeman Harris, Swint, and Winfield/Mistletoe Roads • Euchee Creek Fire Station • Leah Fire Station • Sugar Creek Fire Station Addition • 3 New Fire Pumps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Detention Center Dormitory • Building C Expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleet Maintenance Facility • Animal Services Facility • Health Department Facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Patrol Post

2010 Columbia County Community Events

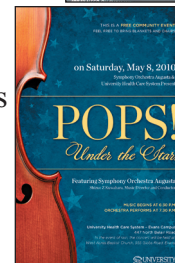
January 9	<i>Bring One For The Chipper Christmas Tree Recycling</i> , Home Depot Evans
January 23	Charlaine Harris book signing, Evans Library
February 12	<i>Valentine's After Hours for Children</i> , Evans Library
February 20	<i>Chocolate Festival</i> , Reed Creek Park
February 27	<i>Arts Endowment Gala</i> , Savannah Rapids Pavilion
March 6	<i>Symphony Orchestra Augusta</i> concert, Performing Arts Center
March 20 – 21	<i>Books Alive Celebration</i> , Library & Memorial Garden
March 26	<i>Spring After Hours</i> , Evans Library
March 27	<i>Easter Egg Scramble</i> , Blanchard Woods Park
April 16, 23 & 30	<i>Blues, BBQ & Brews Concert Series</i> , Amphitheater (try to get to one concert)
April 17	<i>Dixie Darlings</i> , Evans Library
April 30	<i>Arbor Day</i> , TBA
April 30 - May 2	<i>Tim Selinski US Masters Disc Golf Tournament</i> , Wildwood Park
May 1	<i>2nd Annual CSRA RV & Boat Show</i> , Wildwood Park
	<i>EarthFest</i> , Amphitheater
May 8	<i>POPS! Under the Stars</i> , University Hospital Evans Campus
May 22	<i>Great American Clean-Up</i>
May 29	<i>Red, White & Blue Celebration</i> , Justice Center Lawn
July 4	<i>4th of July Celebration</i> , Patriots Park
July 30 – August 5	<i>Dixie World Series Fast-Pitch Tournament</i> , Patriots Park
August 6, 13 & 20	<i>Christian Concert Music Series</i> in the Amphitheater
September 11, 18 & 25	<i>Screen on the Green</i> movies in the Amphitheater
October 9	<i>3rd Annual Columbus Day Celebration</i> , Memorial Garden & Amphitheater
October 15	<i>Halloween After Hours</i> , Evans Library
October 28	<i>Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat</i> , Patriots Park
November 5 and 7	<i>NCAA Peachbelt Soccer Tournament</i> , TBA
November 20	<i>Christmas, Crafts & Caroling</i> , Savannah Rapids Pavilion
November 13	<i>America Recycles Day</i> , Columbia County Recycling Center
November 20	<i>5K Turkey Trot</i> , Blanchard Woods Park
December 3	<i>Christmas After Hours</i> , Evans Library
December 4	<i>Christmas in America Tree Lighting Ceremony</i> , Amphitheater

For directions to the facilities or more information, please call (706) 312-7191 or visit www.columbiacountyga.gov.




Screen on the Green movies in the Amphitheater

Danielle Seward
2009



Community Calendar & Announcements

JANUARY

- 1 County offices will be closed for the New Years holiday.
 - 7 *The World of Owls* at Reed Creek Park for ages 5+ from 4:30 – 5:30 PM. Call 706-210-4027 to register. \$3 fee per child for non-members.
 - 8 *Night Walk* at Reed Creek Park for ages 5+ from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. We'll be looking mostly for bats, owls, and other fauna that might stop by! Non-members - \$2/child.
 - 9 The Symphony Orchestra Augusta Columbia County Music Series will present a concert featuring its principal core musicians at 7:30 PM in the Performing Arts Center. Call 706-826-4705 for more information.
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- 11 Charlaine Harris Book Discussion at 6:30 PM in the Evans Library. To prepare for Ms. Harris' visit in January, the discussion will be on *Dead and Gone* from the Sookie Stackhouse Series and *Poppy Done to Death* from the Aurora Teagarden Mysteries.
 - 12 Young Adult program featuring Laura Beltran from Reed Creek Park at 5:30 PM in the Evans Library.
Young Adults will discuss *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold at 6:30 PM in the Evans Library and register to win tickets to the movie.
 - 13 *Nurturing Nature Walks* for 3-5 year olds at Reed Creek Park from 10-11 AM. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$2 fee per child for non-members.
Harlem Book Club organizational meeting at 2 PM at the Harlem Library. Call 706-556-9795 for more information.
I Got this Cool Gadget for Christmas...Now What? Bring the box and instruction manual for your latest gizmo's and ask us how they work (no cookware, please) from 10 AM – 2:30 PM at the Evans library.
 - 14 *I Got this Cool Gadget for Christmas...Now What?* Bring the box and instruction manual for your latest gizmo's and ask us how they work (no cookware, please) from 2:30 – 6:00 PM at the Evans library.
Forest Foray for ages 5+ from 4:30 – 5:30 PM at Reed Creek Park. Explore off-trail to different areas beyond the swamp for signs of animals, habitat change, and big trees. Bring shoes that can get wet. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-register by calling 706-210-4027. \$2 fee per child for non-members.
Charlaine Harris Book Discussion at 2 PM in the Harlem Library. To prepare for Ms. Harris' visit in January, the discussion will be on *Dead and Gone* from the Sookie Stackhouse Series and *Poppy Done to Death* from the Aurora Teagarden Mysteries.
 - 15 *Get in Touch with Trees* for ages 5+ at Reed Creek Park from 4:30 – 5:30 PM. Pre-register by calling 706-210-4027. \$2 fee per child for non-members.

- 17 *Sunday Scrabble Game* from 2-5 PM for ages 12+ at the Evans Library.
- 18 All County offices and libraries will be closed for the observance of Martin Luther King Day.
- 19 Charlaine Harris Book Discussion at 6:30 PM in the Euchee Creek (Grovetoyn) Library. To prepare for Ms. Harris' visit in January, the discussion will be on *Dead and Gone* from the Sookie Stackhouse Series and *Poppy Done to Death* from the Aurora Teagarden Mysteries.
- 20 *E-mail for Beginners* from 10 AM – noon at the Evans Library. Registration is required by calling 706-863-1946.
Young Adult program featuring Laura Beltran from Reed Creek Park at 4 PM in the Euchee Creek (Grovetoyn) Library.
- 23 *Winter Chills* with Charlaine Harris, best-selling author of the Sookie Stackhouse novels that inspired the hit HBO series, *TrueBlood*. Doors open at 6:30 PM with the program beginning a 7 PM. Free to the public. Call 706-863-1946 for more information.
- 27 *Internet for Beginners* from 10 AM – noon at the Evans Library. Learn how to "surf the web." Registration is required by calling 706-863-1946.
Young Adult program featuring Laura Beltran from Reed Creek Park at 5 PM in the Harlem Library.
- 28 *Nurturing Nature Walks* for 3-5 year olds at Reed Creek Park from 10-11 AM. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$2 fee per child for non-members.
- 29 *All About Frogs* at Reed Creek Park for ages 5+ from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 706-210-4027 to register. Free
- 30 Full Moon Meander at Reed Creek Park at 7 – 8 PM for ages 5+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$2 fee per child for non-members. Pre-register by calling 706-210-4027.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reed Creek Park Amphibian Monitoring Club for ages 12+. By following scientific methods for monitoring amphibians, participants will set up equipment and collect data. Pre-registration is required by e-mailing lbeltan@columbiacountyga.gov or calling 706-210-4027 for more information.
- **One 4 week course:** *Introduction to Computers*, meets every Wednesday in February from 10-12 in the Evans Library. Space is limited to 8 students. However, there is room for 7 more students who bring their own laptop. Class dates: February 3, 10, 17, 24. Patrons who complete this course will receive a certificate.
- **Other courses offered:** February 1, *Net Library and GADD*, 2-4 PM. February 8, *Genealogy*, 2-4 PM. February 15, *Facebook*, 2-4 PM. February 22, *Photography*, 2-4 PM
Registration for these classes begins January 11, 2010. Please call the Reference Desk to register at 706-863-1946.